

Divisional Continuation Applications for Inventions I- IV, please cancel claims 1-30 without prejudice.

Remarks

The numbered paragraphs of the Office action are responded to through the corresponding numbered paragraphs below. The applicant has addressed each issue in turn and, for clarity, has provided a heading for each issue.

Election/Restriction


1-5. The Examiner has placed a restriction requirement on this application, stating that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121, Group I (claims 1-15), Group II (claims 16-22), Group III (claims 23-27), Group IV (claims 28-30) or Group V (claims 31-56). Applicant has elected Group V (claims 31-56) and has requested that Groups I-IV (claims 1-30) be cancelled without prejudice. Applicant believes the election of claims 31-56 and the cancellation of claims 1-30 fully addresses the Examiner's restriction requirement of this paragraph.

6. The Examiner reminded applicant that inventorship must be amended if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's reminder and believes that the inventorship remains correct.

7. The Examiner has provided information concerning communication and/or inquiries concerning this case. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's willingness to communicate and assistance regarding this case and believes no response to this paragraph is necessary.

The applicant has elected Group V (claims 31-56) and has requested that Groups I-IV (claims 1-30) be cancelled without prejudice. Applicant believes that all issues and points of the Examiner's Office action have been addressed. Applicant believes that claims 31-56 are patentable over all known prior art. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of June, 2001.



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